

DULUTH AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, October 20, 2008 - 5:00 p.m.
Room 402 City Hall

Members Present: Antoinette Dickenson, Warner Wirta; Dr. Robert Powless, Bea Kitto, Dr. Joy Dorscher, Tony LaDeaux, Ron Boshey, Michele Gordon, Renee Van Nett, Donna Ennis

Excused Absent: Ricky DeFoe

Staff present: Karen Olesen

Others present: See sign-in sheets. .

CALL TO ORDER, APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Motion by Michele Gordon, seconded by Bea Kitto, to approve the agenda. The motion was unanimously approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2008 MEETING:

Motion by Dr. Powless, seconded by Bea Kitto, to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2008 meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

COMMUNITY PUBLIC FORUM / OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Jean Buffalo, of the Red Cliff Band, spoke regarding consultation being a tool and what it means to the Indian people. Consultation is the first step for the tribal people to meet at the table to discuss change. During the meeting with Mayor Ness, there was a good discussion about what people living on this earth need to do to come together to resolve issues within the areas such as the Elf Project, the Dupont project and the barrels dumped in Lake Superior. Red Cliff has received a planning grant, to work on protecting natural resources, and are developing a Strategic Planning Implementation Plan (SPIP). They would like everyone to think about and discuss what can be done about the barrels. The Band has received funding of \$608,000.00 to hire a consultant to meet and talk about the scientific process to clean up Lake Superior. EMR has been hired and are on board working with Red Cliff to scan with sonar portions of Lake Superior. Sue Anderson of EMR, talked about Phase I of the plan. There are a lot of steps to getting to the barrels. A slide show presentation followed. In 1939-1962, the Army was contracted to dispose of classified waste from ammunition plant. In 2007, Red Cliff contracted with EMR. In 2008, a work plan was developed. Implementation began with the side scan and sector scan of the Lake. Anticipated activities for the next two years include water and sediment sampling; select barrel recovery and sampling; human health and

ecological risk assessments. Side Scan Survey was done 24 hours a day 7 days a week from October 8 to 15. The Sector Scan and ROV Survey hasn't been analyzed yet, but was done to do a more thorough investigation of sites and to confirmed sites. Sediment testing still needs to be done, and will be part of the next phase of testing. All tribes in the 1854 Treaty are included as stake holders. Dr. Bob asked how we could help to speed this process up. Jean stated we need to work with Mayor Ness on speeding this process up. If funding is awarded, 2009 may be the next opportunity to do the sediment testing. Approximately 70 barrels will be recovered and their contents sampled. The RI/FSI Remedial Investigation Report and Feasibility Study will be available in the future. When Red Cliff returns, the DAIC will devote a full meeting to the barrel discussion, and the community will be informed and invited to attend. Before leaving, Jean gave a gift to the DAIC.

Representatives from St. Scholastica's Nursing program provided an update on their grant to mentor minority students. Students who participate will receive a Baccalaureate Degree in nursing. The program has been very successful, and they are applying for additional funds.

Chief Gordon Ramsey provided an update on the citizens Review Board. There hasn't been any subcommittee meetings. He contacted Eileen Luna, and found she wasn't aware of the interest in coming up here for a training, although did say she would be willing to come to Duluth. The cost would be a few thousand dollars. Chief Ramsey noted that the Department has a new grant writer starting in November, and they could potentially work on securing funds to pay for Eileen to come to Duluth. Karen Diver, of Fond du Lac, has stated they would provide a free room for her stay to help with costs. On another topic, Chief Ramsey stated Native American women have the highest rate of not wanting to prosecute sexual assaults, and a task force has been formed to address this issue. The Police Department invited to Boise Fort Band meeting and will be meeting with Mille Lacs Band in another month. No new updates on Smith/Goggeye matters except that they continue to be reviewed regular and are hoping for additional evidence due to new DNA testing ability. DAIC may want to invite the County Attorney's Office to meeting to address why charges were not being filed against people in certain matters.

OLD BUSINESS:

Spirit Mountain Authority Master Plan – Update –

Warner reported that the Authority board is writing letter to Kevin Leecy and Norman Deschampe concerning the master plan.

NEW BUSINESS:

Indian Legal Assistance Program -

Representatives of Indian Legal Aide talked about their services. They have been in the community since the 1970's. Indian Legal Aide provides criminal representation, as well as in civil matters, in an area that includes St. Louis and Carlton County. They can work with all low income persons. Funding sources include tribal support from Mille Lacs, Bois Forte, Grand Portage, and Fond du Lac Bands. There is a seven member board. Funding also comes from the State of Minnesota and St. Louis County. Commission would be willing to help distribute program brochures to the community and refer people to Indian Legal.

Tom Roy, Executive Director of Arrowhead Regional Corrections, and Kay Arola, in charge of probation in the five county region, also talked with the DAIC. Ms. Arola explained Intensive Supervised Release (ISR), how this very restrictive probation is reserved for those offenders convicted of high level assaults, such as armed robberies. In the region, there are fewer than 100 probationers designated as ISR participants. Most people on ISR are in the community in place of prison time, and are in this designation for approximately one year before being moved to a less restrictive level.

On a positive note, there will be funding to help work on the issue of disparity in the juvenile justice system. The DAIC will be kept up to date on progress of this effort in the future.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPCOMING EVENTS AND COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Michelle reported that on November 13, 2008, the Arrowhead Interfaith Council will be having a dinner at the New Unitarian Church on College Street, at 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$15.00.

Dr. Bob related that it had been a long meeting and that while we need some sort of order, he hoped people would always be able to say what they needed to say to the Commission.

Warner said he wished there had been more time to discuss the Minnehaha window matter.

Renee shared that Tommy J. Stillday had passed away.

Bea said there had been lots of information provided tonight, and she was glad to be here.

Karen Olesen suggested putting an estimated time on agenda items might help move the meeting along.

Dr. Joy had attended the ceremony for Tommy Stillday. She also wanted to thank Dr. Bob for getting her on another planning committee.

MEETING/DATE/LOCATION:

Due to the closure of City Hall on the Monday when the Commission normally meets, the next DAIC meeting will be on November 24, 2008 at 5:00, Room 402, City Hall, the Monday before Thanksgiving.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was adjourned.